



HMC Paul McFadden (Left) and LT Wendy Stouder (center) of FH5 get a giggle from 2-year-old Wesley, an orphan at Notre Maison, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

HEALTHCARE WITH HEART

BY JOSN JOSE BLANCO

Making a difference has been in the hearts and on the minds of members of Fleet Hospital Five deployed in Haiti. The satisfaction in healing a child or curing someone's lifelong afflictions has made the doctors, nurses and sailors and other enlisted personnel many friends in the first 4 weeks of duty in a city of over 3 million people.

As of March 22th, Fleet Hospital Five has completed a total of 25 Humanitarian Assistance (HA) visits and treated over 1,142 Haitians in the Port-au-Prince area.



HM3 Adam Borowitz (front center) unloads supplies as FH5 prepares for another HA.

In these first few weeks in Haiti young corpsman have had daily opportunities too apply their special training and skills on hundreds of men, women and children in many impoverished communities throughout the city.



CAPT Martin Wilcox prepares for on-site surgery at De Sour Ce Cazeau, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. (March 5, 1997)

Enduring humid temperatures that often soar into the nineties before noon, enthusiasm within the hospital is very high. The working conditions often encountered have created unique challenges yet, the exceptional blend of experience and youth has complemented each other manificently. And the overvall feeling among the corpsman and staff has been we can adapt and overcome any situation or emergency.

Venturing into different communities, some unaccustomed to our weekly visits and working in dusty, cramped schools, and vacant buildings throughout the city and outlining areas has proven to be the most challenging aspect of an HA mission